GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
SHIPPING
LOK SABHA

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:1261
ANSWERED ON:09.02.2017
Formal Safety Assessment for Inland Waterways
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Will the Minister of SHIPPING be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government has conducted a Formal Safety Assessment (FSA) or any other assessment to assess the safety of the inland waterways proposed to be developed into Integrated Water Transport System under the National Waterways Act, 2016;
(b) if so, the details and the outcome thereof and if not, the reasons therefor;
(c) the steps taken/being taken by the Government for the safe transportation through inland waterways in view of the high rate of drowning accidental deaths in the country;
(d) whether the Government proposes to make registration of inland vessels as mandatory and also enforce minimum construction standards for boat to prevent the incidents of capsizing; and
(e) if not, the reasons therefor along with other steps taken in this regard?

Answer

(a)&(b):Jal Marg Vikas Project (JMVP) being implemented with technical and financial assistance of the World Bank envisages preparation of Disaster Management Plan (DMP) and Emergency Management Plan (EMP) to take care of the activities like navigation, terminal & jetty operation, oil spill, disaster contingency etc. after the commissioning of the project and while operating cargo and passengers vessels on National Waterway-1 (NW-1).

(c)to(e):The mechanically propelled inland vessels are governed by the Inland Vessels Act, 1917 (1 of 1917) and rules framed by State Governments have provisions for Life Saving Appliances to be kept on board. The registration of inland mechanically propelled vessels by the State Government is also mandatory.

The new Inland Vessels Bill, 2017 also proposes for enrolment of non-mechanically propelled vessels by Local Self Administration and administering, enforcement and implementing its provisions in Part XIV by local self- governance. Prescribing basic minimum standards for construction and safety of non-mechanically propelled vessels are also envisaged in the proposed Bill.
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